

NUMBER 11

Several regiments of citizens had now volunteered, and hundreds more had been compelled by coercion to enter the rebel lines, and to serve in the rebel army; and about this time, August, 1863, Jeff. Davis made another call, running up to fifty-five years of age; and at the same time, Gov. Harris issued an additional call, embracing all men up to fifty-five years of age; so you see that all our population from eighteen years of age up to fifty-five were called for by these several authorities. But simultaneously with these calls came the advance of General Burnside's gallant and glorious army across the Cumberland Mountains. [great applause] for the redemption and relief of our suffering people. The army of General Bragg had been, just previous, compelled to evacuate Chattanooga, and thus General Rosecrans occupied that extremity of the State; and many of our young men at once sprang from their hiding places and their coverts in the mountains, and rallied to the standard of their country, under the lead of these gallant and glorious champions of the Union, and our mothers, sisters, wives and old men were left alone to occupy our vacant homes. To-day, fellow-citizens, more than 25,000 Tennesseeans wear the uniform and bear the arms of your country and my country. [Prolonged and enthusiastic applause.] While I would not disparage any other section of these United States in its patriotism and devotion to country, I must say for my section, that in the midst of all the sufferings and trials, privations and perils incident to every hour of their lives, they have furnished to the support of your government and my government more men, in proportion to their population—more than two to one—than any other section of the country in which we live. [Applause.]

As Gen. Burnside, in September, 1862, with his conquering line, marched toward the Upper Valley, but our army retired, because as they went, hundreds of thousands